

# Local Man Designs Original Ceramic Mold

Several years ago when John Steele became interested in helping his wife with a ceramic project, little did he realize that one day he would be the owner of a ceramic shop and studio. Neither could he foresee that he would be the creator of an original ceramic mold and hold exclusive rights for its manufacture and sale throughout the United States and its territories. But that is the story of his life today.

John, employed as an engineer by Commonwealth Telephone Co., and his wife Grace, live in Centermoreland in a white ranch style home with their four children.

He became interested in ceramics through his wife when she was attending ceramic classes and bringing home some of her projects to work on between classes. While confined to his home with illness, he started to work on one or two pieces and as his interest grew, so did the number of projects he undertook. Soon he and his wife purchased a kiln and began making various pieces for neighbors and friends.

The Steeles had no intention of expanding their hobby, but when they discovered the former William James home and adjoining ceramic studio was for sale, they took advantage of what they felt was a good opportunity and expanded their business.

Mrs. Steele, the former Grace Harvey of Loyalville, conducts classes in ceramics on the average of three nights per week with groups limited from five to ten persons. Workshops are open to both experienced and inexperienced persons interested in working with ceramics and to men and women alike.

Mr. Steele is responsible for pouring the greenware, and prior to the creation of his original mold made them from molds purchased from companies throughout the country. His creation is patterned after the cartoon strip "The Captain and the Kids" and he has obtained exclusive rights from United Feature Syndicate to use the five characters in the strip in producing molds designed by him. When he completes his

molds there will be a complete set depicting the Captain, Mama, Hans, Fritz, and Der Professor.

He has already designed molds for cups and tooth brush holders and in the near future will have banks and figurine molds available. The cups can be made and sold in sets and will be of special interest to the younger set and collectors.

The Steeles' primary interest in the new design will be nationwide sales of the molds to ceramic studios throughout the country.

John Steele's success came about when, desiring to go into designing cartoon molds, he looked around for a character not in the hands of anyone. He contacted United Features who gave him a choice of five cartoons from which to select. After making his choice, they asked that he send the first sample to them for approval. Mr. Dirks, artist for the cartoon, was so pleased with the finished product that he requested his signature be placed on each mold and sent his personalized signature so Mr. Steele could duplicate it. The signature is engraved in the original pattern for the molds. Mr. Steele, who has great artistic talent, does all his own artwork and carving. He starts with a solid piece of plaster, wets it and carves the design on the item he plans to make into a mold. From this mold, the greenware is made which is purchased by people in finishing ceramics.

It takes ingenuity, creativity, artistic talent, infinite patience, and the willingness to work against all odds to become successful in reaching the point Mr. Steele has.



Photo by J. Kozemchak Sr.

John and Grace Steele proudly display the mold and a piece of greenware designed and executed by Mr. Steele. The Centermoreland man holds exclusive rights for the manufacture of pieces patterned after the cartoon strip, "The Captain and the Kids."

# Ambulance Service Increased in 1971

Dallas Community Ambulance provides a vital service for the Back Mountain area it was made clear with the release of that organization's annual report recently.

In 1971, 34 members answered 281 calls, as compared with 265

in 1970 and 261 in 1969. Eight members were on duty for 35 or more calls, with Robert Be-secker answering 75; Tim Carroll, 69; Jerry Torr, 62; Red Wright, 64; James Davies, 57; Mike McFadden, 39; Harold Smith, 37; and J.R. Spherl, 36. Crew members responded to 24 calls necessitating special care for heart attack victims; of this number six resulted in fatalities at the scene or enroute to the hospital. On behalf of vehicular accident victims there were 54 calls, with no fatalities. Local transportation calls numbered 54 and miscellaneous calls totaled 65. There were five obstetrical calls, and three for distant transportation. The number of home accidents rose this year from 18 in 1970 to 12 cases, and the crew was on standby duty during four football games.

## Acme Redeems Worthless Checks

George Marcum Jr., Box 101, Harveys Lake, was directed by District Magistrate Frederick W. Anderson to make restitution to the Shavertown Acme Market for two worthless checks he had written during the months of October and November.

Marcum paid a total of \$98.53 to the market plus court costs following a hearing before the magistrate Dec. 28.

## Oak Hill

by Bridgette Corrales 639-5759

The long awaited Brrrrrrrrrrrr (January temperatures) arrived in our area this past weekend. A cold 5 below 0 was recorded outside many Oak Hill homes. This weather, while welcomed by skiers, skaters and advocates of other outdoor sports, is not really appreciated by those of us whose knees knock and teeth chatter at the mere mention of these sub-freezing temperatures. One consolation—I've got my love to keep me warm.

Elly Gerchak is a surgical patient at Wilkes-Barre General Hospital. Sincere wishes for a quick recovery.

Dr. and Mrs. Rudy Schleich, Oak Drive, enjoyed several days in Washington, D.C.

In response to last weeks' editorial—Who Cares—We care—Oak Hill Civic Association. We plan to visit the local nursing homes more often and bring them cheer. Let's hope more people do the same.

Several children of our area are busy learning parts for their school play "Country Store Cat." Who will win the Emmy Award. Chuck Batka, Kim Edwards, Joseph Kishkill, Dougie Osborne, or Joseph Tomaselli? The envelope please!

Congratulations to Cheryl Cartier, daughter of Robert and Peg, Upper Demunds Road, upon notification of achievement to dean's list at Marywood College.

Spending a few days with her parents, Mary and Jack Gesmundo, is Maryann Regal and children from Towanda.

Mr. and Mrs. Llewlyn of Harveys Lake and Forty Fort, have recently returned from the 30 degree temperature of Puerto Rico. The couple enjoyed a months stay with their son and his family.

Congratulations to my son Louis, who served his first Mass today as an altar boy. At first we thought he would burn down the altar when he went to light the candles, or that he would fight in his seat, as he usually

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